

Application No. 09/889,567
Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2005

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 1 – Fig. 12. These sheets, which include Fig. 1 – Fig. 12, replace the original sheets including Fig. 1 – Fig. 12.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (12)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. Claims 1-8, 10-14, 15-20 and 22-28 are amended by the present amendment. The claims are amended only to correct matters of form and to better conform to U.S. Practice. The drawings are amended only to respond to the objection set forth in the outstanding Official Action. Thus, no new matter is presented.

In the outstanding Official Action the drawings were objected to because of minor informalities; Claims 1-9, 11 and 14-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Akiyama et al. (U.S. patent 6,771,378, hereinafter “Akiyama”); and Claims 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Sato et al. (U.S. Patent 6,667,812 (hereinafter “Sato”).

The drawings were objected to in the outstanding Official Action because the lettering within the figures is “very small, making the drawing difficult to read.” In response, Figure 1-12 are amended to increase the font size of the text used in these figures. Replacement drawing sheets for Figures 1-12 are attached, as indicated above.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The outstanding Official Action asserts that Akiyama teaches all the elements of independent Claims 1, 8, 14, 21 and 28. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The present claims are directed to a host device, printer, system and method for printing status information of a printer. Specifically, the printer transmits status information to the host computer and the host computer generates printing data based on the acquired status information data from the printer. This printing data is then transmitted back to the printer and printed.

In this manner, the printer processor does not bear the burden of processing status information relating to the printer and generating a printable document based on this status information. Instead, the printer transmits raw data to the host computer which then generates the printer status data to be printed on the printer.¹

Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a medium having a status information printing program recorded thereon, the printing program comprising:

“...a printing data generation function configured to generate printing data to be printed by the printer based on the status information data acquired by the status information acquisition function ...”

Turning to the applied reference, Akiyama describes a system in which a host computer acquires information about the status of the printer (remaining ink) and displays a message on the display screen allowing a user to select whether to proceed with the print operation, or to modify the print job based on the displayed status.² Specifically, as depicted in Figs. 43A-43C a host computer (110) initiates a bi-directional communication mode with the printer (101) and transmits a detection command to the printer (101) requesting the status of individual ink reservoir.³ The printer then transmits the requested information back to the host computer allowing the user, who then uses this information to determine whether or not they would like to complete a print command.⁴

Amended Claim 1 recites that the host device includes “a printing data generation function *configured to generate printing data to be printed by the printer based on the status information data acquired by the status information acquisition function on the host side.*” In contrast, Akiyama describes the host computer (110) receives and displays status information regarding the printer, and the user then determines whether or not they would

¹ Specification at page 3, lines 3-22.

² Akiyama at Abstract.

³ Akiyama at col. 55, line 62 – col. 56, line 5.

⁴ Akiyama at col. 57, line 49 – col. 58, line 7.

like to proceed with a normal print operation based on the displayed information.⁵ In Akiyama, no print data is generated on the basis of the received status information. Instead, the user is able to print data generated in the host device (documents, images, etc.) which is in no way affected, or based on the received status information.⁶ Thus, at no point does Akiyama teach or suggest *generating printing data to be printed on the printer based on the status information acquired from the printer*.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn. For substantially the same reasons as given with respect to Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 8, 14, 21 and 28 also patentably define over Akiyama.

Claims 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Sato. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 8 as amended recites, *inter alia*, a printer for holding two-way communication with a host computer and printing status information about the printer, comprising:

“...a status information output unit configured to output... the status information data... and causing the host computer to generate printing data for the printer to print the status information...”

Turning to the applied reference, Sato describes an information processing apparatus capable of determining matching a control language between a printer and a host device through a bi-directional interface.⁷ The host device then selects a printer driver based on the control language used by the printer.⁸

As discussed above, amended Claim 8 requires that the printer includes a status information output unit that outputs status information data, “*and causing the host computer to generate printing data for the printer to print the status information.*” The Official

⁵ Akiyama at Figs. 17-24.

⁶ Akiyama at col. 9, lines 35-50.

⁷ Sato at col. 2, lines 1-5.

⁸ Sato at col. 2, lines 5-12.

Action cites col. 4, lines 13-60 and col. 7, lines 35-65 of Sato as describing this claimed feature. However, the cited portion of Sato describes that a host computer is capable of switching to a corresponding printer driver based on a detected printer control language.⁹ Thus, Sato describes that a host computer is able to detect a predetermined language of a printer device and select an appropriate printer driver to allow the host computer to print on that printing device. However, the detected control language information does not cause the host computer to generate printing data for the printer to print the “*status information*”, as recited in Claim 8.

In Sato, the only information that may be considered status information is the detected printer control language information, which is used to select an appropriate print driver. Therefore, this information is not used by the host device to generate *status information which is printed*, but instead is used to assist the host device in selecting a print driver which is used to condition a user-generated document or image to be printed at the printer. Further, at no point does Sato teach or suggest that *printer status information* is generated, or printed whatsoever. Thus, Sato fails to teach or suggest a status information output unit for outputting status information data “*and causing the host computer to generate printing data for the printer to print the status information*”, as recited in Claim 8.

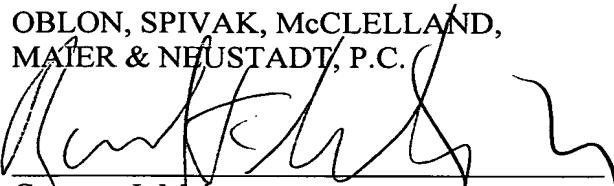
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn. As Claims 9-13 depend from Claim 8, Applicants submit that these claims also patentably define over Sato.

⁹ Sato at col. 7, lines 39-45.

Consequently, in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-28 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MATER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Raymond F. Cardillo, Jr.
Registration No. 40,440

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

I:\ATTY\ATH\PROSECUTION\21's\212054-US\212054 AM 5.24.05.DOC